

2002 PATTERN REVIEW

JANUARY & FEBRUARY: Housebreaks dominated these months, reporting 122, a 180% increase from 2001. The housebreaks occurred in patterns in Area 4, Cambridgeport & Riverside, Agassiz & Peabody, and Inman & Mid-Cambridge. In the beginning of March, the West Cambridge neighborhood was added in a professional pattern of an Oriental rug, silverware, and antique theft spree. Following key arrests, these patterns began to die down. However this was not the end of housebreak patterns heated up again during the summer months.

MARCH: While housebreaks subsided, pickpockets in Harvard Square heated up. The food court in The Garage and other restaurants in the Square were targeted. There were two arrests of pickpockets in the Square.

APRIL: Motor vehicle crimes were the pattern during this spring month. These crimes included thefts from motor vehicles and various acts of malicious destruction (pinstripping/keying, smashing the car windows, graffiti, slashing the tires, etc). These crimes were spread throughout the city and mainly occurred overnight.

MAY & JUNE: Beginning in May, the summer housebreaks in and around the Agassiz/Peabody line along the Somerville border peaked in June. In mid-June, an increased number emerged in the Central Square area. On the weekdays, the breaks concentrated during mid-day and on the weekends during the middle of the night. A chronic offender hailing from nearby Somerville was arrested in early July and in mid-July his chronic offending brother and an accomplice were arrested for breaking into storage bins and stealing bicycles. These three thefts quieted the pattern.

JULY & AUGUST: The three-month larceny from motor vehicle pattern began in the beginning of July and ran until the end of October. During this time, 386 thefts were reported, the second most recorded in the city ever, behind 1995's 440. July and August months reported 223 thefts, 112 in July and just one less in August. The thefts were concentrated in the Central Square area, Agassiz/Peabody line, and Area 4. During this time, five men were arrested in three separate incidents, including a prolific offender in this area of crime.

SEPTEMBER: Commercial burglaries in Central Square emerged as a pattern. Over Labor Day weekend alone, twelve breaks were reported across the city, six in Central Square. This problem continued into the month of November, when a man was arrested who was suspected in thirty-four other breaks in the area.

OCTOBER: Following a quiet seven months, the West Cambridge neighborhood reported a four week pattern beginning in September and ending in October of weekend housebreaks. The breaks concentrated on Mount Auburn Street and surrounding streets.

NOVEMBER: A chronic offender was arrested for the second time this year for larceny from motor vehicles. Designated as a major player in the summer theft from vehicles problem, he alone may be responsible for 3% of the overall crime rate.

DECEMBER: Street robberies in Harvard Square dominated the last thirty-one days of the year. The robberies occurred either between 3:00-4:00 in the afternoon or the early morning hours.